



Spring 2021

NUCCA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION - NUCCA

President's Letter

I hope this issue of the NUCCA News finds you adapting well. There is so much to share with you at this time, but in a fashion unusual to me, I have kept it as concise as possible. My heart goes out to our colleagues in British Columbia - they have a significant battle that just erupted in their jurisdiction, and I'm sure we will all do what we can to support them.

With the much criticized Choosing Wisely document, published by the American Chiropractic Association in 2017, it became apparent that the future held some challenges for our methodology. As mentioned in my Spring 2020 President's message, the recent Neck Pain Guidelines stated very clearly, *"There is no high-quality evidence to suggest that serial radiography of the cervical spine is a useful tool with high clinical yield."* Since then, a rapid review: *The clinical utility of routine spinal radiographs by chiropractors* by Corso et al. 2020, was commissioned and

published. As a result of evidence from this review, and after a quick public consultation, last month the College of Chiropractors of British Columbia (CCBC) have limited the use of x-ray within their jurisdiction. This has created an immediate challenge for the NUCCA doctors in BC to provide their patients with appropriate care.

What should have been apparent previously, but now is painfully evident, is that the ability to assist patients with serious clinical concerns utilizing a precise, image-guided intervention is being threatened by members of our own profession. It is being threatened by chiropractors using researchers with little or no clinical experience searching for evidence that has not yet had adequate time to accumulate.

On NUCCA's behalf, I wrote a letter to the CCBC that was received in early September 2020 with only an auto-reply response. There was no further attempt to explore the issue by CCBC,

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National Upper Cervical
Chiropractic Association

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as no further official communication from this dubious public inquiry was attempted prior to their February 4, 2021 ruling. Letters were written by many others as well, but seemingly to no avail. Evidence takes time and money to acquire, and although other UC techniques and NUCCA continue to contribute meaningfully to the literature, this evidence was insufficient or ignored.

The lack of evidence in support of what we do is not the impetus behind this movement, but we still need more compelling evidence to translate what it is we see in our practice to academia so it can be understood within the literature. The idea that a lack of available evidence might be reasonably equated to evidence against, would keep most of our profession from practicing chiropractic. NUCCA has a rich history of empirical investigation into its procedures, and for that we should be proud. However, the politics of the chiropractic profession around the world seem to be seeking to homogenize, and in doing so they simplify circumstances beyond what is found in the reality of clinical practice.

As we look to the future, there are some policy and legislative realities that we need to recognize for the health of our organization:

1. Around the world, most jurisdictions that seek to recognize chiropractic will likely not allow the chiropractors to have access to diagnostic imaging.
2. Our ability to take imaging will be challenged by our own colleagues as they work to homogenize chiropractic.
3. Early evidence will continue to disproportionately support the forms of chiropractic that are able to easily pass-through ethics approval by not using ionizing radiation in their simple interventions.
4. We will not be able to publish on the response of our patients to particular conditions with our procedures until we classify patients according to established diagnostic norms.
5. Third party reimbursement will continue to be applied for diagnosed conditions to interventions with research efficacy (evidence of effectiveness). Until we have that evidence, our status to some insurance companies as "experimental" will not change.

These realities will impact our ability to deliver care to patients in a variety of jurisdictions. As an organization, we have some decisions to make if we want to be an organization that is global. As we consider our strategy,

how do we safeguard our dedication to excellence, and our key principles of restoration and production-reduction relationships, while acknowledging the political realities of various jurisdictions?

Our work has evolved enough that it will stand on its own merit, but it will need to continue to be subjected to testing to understand appropriate application. NUCCA has the advantage of clinical effectiveness and its basis in the fundamental truth that neurological influence has a hierarchy that centres around the CCJ. The CCJ's capability to affect the nervous system creates confusion for many of our colleagues who are primarily interested in restoring joint mobility. Motion, as Gracovskiy so aptly showed decades ago, begins in the pelvis. The disconnect between those focused on motion and those focused on tone will continue to confuse many in our profession. However, we need to continue to investigate and evolve our work, and we need to also be sure to share our rationale with our professional colleagues through publications in the literature.

As we enter our second year of this COVID-19 impacted world, where and how will we position ourselves, and are we going to respond or 'pre-pond' to this as an organization? I encourage you to engage, because if you do not act, please know that those that hold a different viewpoint will not be idle. You can publish research. You can participate with the RadEvidence.org group that our member Dr. Phil Arnone is leading. You can confirm that you are a member of the ICA's Council on Upper Cervical and participate on NUCCA committees. You can donate to the fund to support Chiropractors in British Columbia. You can join or upgrade your Gregory Circle membership to help with NUCCA and UCRF's ability to respond. Many of you are already very engaged and active, but we still need much more to be accomplished if we are to achieve enough to combat this emerging existential threat.

As I said in my last message, I am curious to see what we can accomplish in 2021. I'm not sure when we will next get to meet in person, but in the meanwhile let's keep working – but with a little more urgency.

Remember, do good things, and take care of each other.



Dr. Jeff Scholten

President, NUCCA Board of Directors

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE UPDATES

Spring 2021 NUCCA Conference – Both In-Person & Virtual Options Available! –

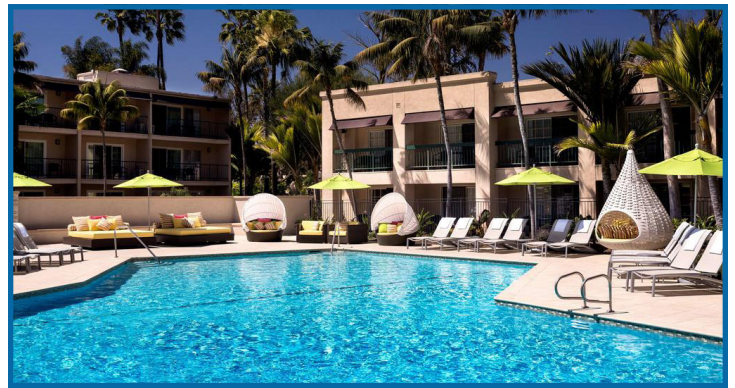
In Person: April 8 – 10, 2021 – Newport Beach, CA

Virtual: April 8 – May 31 – Online via Life West

NUCCA is thrilled to be able to offer both an in-person and virtual option for our Spring 2021 Conference! Our Education Committee has been hard at work to create two schedules for both in-person and virtual attendees that will provide our members with any research updates, technique courses, and the standards of NUCCA care. Take a look below at some important updates for attendees!

Conference Updates:

- NUCCA will be extending the closing date of our the Virtual Conference to midnight on May 31st. This is to help our doctors in states that have stricter CE credit applications. You now have almost two months to 'attend' the pre-recorded sessions in any order you choose, at any time you choose!



- NUCCA will now be automatically enrolling all in-person attendees into the virtual conference. As we've learned this past year, things are ever-changing. If for any reason an instructor can no longer participate, we want our attendees to have the option to take their course online.

For all conference details, please view our conference page [here](#).

We'll see you in-person or virtually in April!

2021 SPRING CONFERENCE Virtual Exhibitor Hall

NUCCA is thrilled to launch our first ever Virtual Exhibitor Hall in tandem with our 2021 Spring Conference! This "event" will allow you to be seen by all registered attendees, no matter if they choose to attend conference in Newport Beach, CA or from the comfort of their own home!

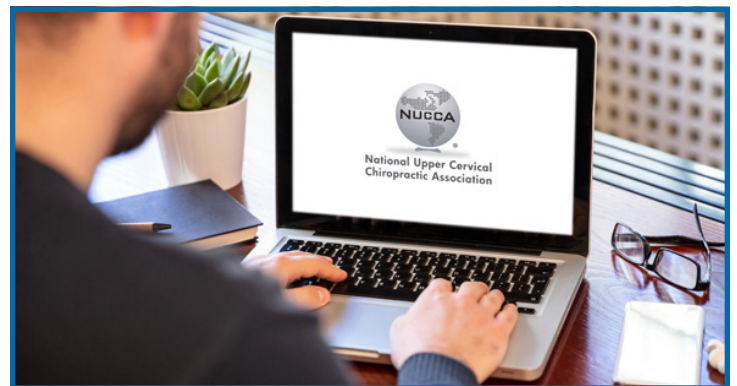
This event will open with our conference from April 8 – May 31 and be featured during our opening session so if you are interested in posting a video, sign up now to take full advantage of this opportunity!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- All exhibitors will receive an opportunity to present a Virtual Exhibitor Video
- All exhibitors can provide a folder insert that will be included in attendee packets on-site in Newport Beach, CA.
- All exhibitors will be promoted via email blast, social media, and during our opening session on April 8.

To stay up to date with the Virtual Exhibitor Hall, [click here](#).

To register as an exhibitor, [click here](#).



VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

Our Virtual Career Fair is back! Recent graduates are looking to build their practice, and some of our doctors have practices seeking an additional associate. We hope our career fairs can provide a place for both parties to connect!

This “event” will be free and open to the public to view on the NUCCA website and will feature videos and contact information from clinics and organizations with various career opportunities.

This event will open with our Spring Conference on April 8 and be featured during our opening session so if you are interested in posting a video, sign up now to take full advantage of this opportunity!

REQUIREMENTS

In order to post a video, you must be:

1. A 2021 Spring Conference attendee, OR
2. A 2021 NUCCA member

PRICING

On or before Sunday, April 6

- NUCCA Members: \$75
- Non-Members: \$90

Sunday, April 6 – July 31 (pricing will not be pro-rated based on when you sign up)

- NUCCA Members: \$90
- Non-Members: \$105

All participating doctors will have the option to attend the Career Fair on Friday, April 9 in Newport Beach if they are attending the in-person conference

CALLING ALL STUDENTS!

As a student studying chiropractic you're able to attend our upcoming NUCCA conference at a discount by becoming a NUCCA member!

Student Membership & Conference Fees

- Student membership with 2 conferences: **\$345**
(includes registration for both Spring and Fall 2021 conference)
- Student membership with 1 conference: **\$245**
(includes registration to one conference – either Spring or Fall 2021)

Here's what's included in your student conference registration:

- **Friday Night Social tickets** – receive one complimentary ticket to Friday's evening's reception in Newport Beach!
- **Hotel Room** – NUCCA provides complimentary hotel rooms for students. If you are interested in taking advantage of one of these rooms, please email info@nucca.org and reserve your spot by March 19, 2020.

- **Student Essay Contest** – Every student has the chance to have their conference fee (for both in-person and virtual) waived by entering our Student Essay Contest! Submit an essay that focuses around the question “What Does NUCCA Mean to You?” – submit your essay by Friday, April 2nd to be considered!

If you have any questions or need assistance in registering for conference, reach out to info@nucca.org!

Stay up to date on conference details [here](#).

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS RECAP By Dr. Craig Lapenski

This year's regional workshop in the beautiful northwest was an incredible time. Drs. Craig Lapenski and Kurt Sherwood had the opportunity to work through a large amount of one-on-one training with doctors representing 6 different states. The workshop included in-depth kinesthetic and visual head piece positioning, advanced adjusting development, as well as advanced concepts in what factors may be limiting Subluxation reduction.

The evening ended with a dinner together at the Lapenski residence for all who could make it. Ping Pong and Foosball tournaments made for lots of laughter and fun as well as a great time of learning. Attendees commented on "personal breakthrough" and really enjoying the family like environment.

Please join us next time!



SETTLEBACK SESSIONS

Date: Wednesday, March 24

Time: 6:00pm PST / 8:00pm CST

Where: Zoom

NUCCA's Collegiality Committee has another great Settleback Sessions planned for you! Join us on Wednesday, March 24th at 6:00pm PST / 8:00pm CST for a conversation with Dr. Jon Chung.

Dr. Chung will discuss how he looks after patients with concussions / TBI's and other brain-based injuries. He will be going into some tough cases and brings his expertise in NUCCA & Functional Neurology to evaluate patients that walk through his door.

To register for this session, [click here!](#)

This event is free to attend! Access details will be sent to all registered attendees the morning of the session.

2020 GREGORY CIRCLE Members

Lifetime Members

- Craig Lapenski
- Devin Luzod

Gregory Circle Silver

- Richard De Camillis
- Kerry Johnson
- Benjamin Kuhn
- Blair Schmaus

Gregory Circle Junior Silver

- Philip Arnone
- Jamie Cramer
- Keith Denton
- Jacob Dodds
- Lauren Dodds
- Patricia Gregg
- Ashleigh Street
- Lee Yardley

Gregory Circle Senior Bronze

- Bradley Kennedy
- Michael Russamano
- Shawn Thomas

Gregory Circle Bronze

- Valeri Briski
- Justin Brown
- Tymothy Flory
- Greg Goffe
- Jason Granger
- Phil Kanwischer
- Patrick Lin
- Steven MacDonald
- Gerald Martin
- Aurora Ongaro
- Reanna Plancich
- Julia Radwanski
- Jeffrey Scholten
- Kurt Sherwood
- Jayson Snyder

Gregory Circle Junior Bronze

- Jonathan Chung
- Natalie Dabrownny
- Christopher Dawson
- Stanley Dombroski
- Donald Erwin

- Vince Fitzpatrick
- Michael Foran
- Shawn L Hall
- Scott Hansen
- Gordon Hasick
- Jeff Hedrich
- Johanna Hoeller
- Dustin Ingalls
- Daiki Ishiyama
- Kyrie Kleinfelter
- John Kowalczyk
- Jordan Landholm
- Akala Lemus
- Terry McCoskey
- Jim Moore
- Barbara K. Read
- Finley Sesker
- Jack Stockwell
- Gary Thomson
- James Weiss
- Marcella Ziska

NEW MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome these new members to our NUCCA family this past year – please take a moment, whether in person and a conference, or virtually on a monthly Settleback Session, to welcome these new doctors and students to our organization.

Zeina Abouakl Life

Chiropractic College West

Angela Bapp

*Palmer College of
Chiropractic - Florida*

Greg Dutson

THRIVE Head & Spinal Care

Norris Golberg

Koru Chiropractic

Sarah LaRosa

*Balanced Health
Chiropractic Center*

Kyle Murray

Atlas Brain and Spine

Josh Stehmeier

*Kelowna Wellness Clinic/ Kamloops
NUCCA Chiropractic Clinic*

Gabriel Tung

Life Chiropractic College West

MEMBER Updates

NUCCA would like to provide a place to share any life updates, hardships, or fundraisers taking place on behalf of our members or member's loved ones. Please take a moment to read the updates on a few of our NUCCA colleagues and support in any way you can.

Dr. Robert Neff

Earlier this year in January, longtime NUCCA member Dr. Robert Neff passed away with his family at his side. Dr. Neff was a huge supporter of NUCCA, a dedicated volunteer, and was in the process of helping NUCCA staff with the bylaws rewrite up until his passing.

A man on deep faith, his family wrote in his obituary, "His life was marked by faith in God, adherence to principle over convenience, and service to others including 10 years of symphony (French horn) followed by 40 years in chiropractic care."

View Dr. Neff's full obituary [here](#).



**Dr. Neff receiving
the Dr. Robert Brooks Award
in 2017**

Dr. Jonathan Chung

In September 2020, our friend and NUCCA member Dr. Jon Chung shared that his wife, Tran, had an unexpected stroke. Her recovery has not been easy, but through social media updates we are able to watch her progress! A friend of the family started a GoFundMe for the Chung's to support them during this time. Donations for the family's medical expenses can be made [here](#). Dr. Chung continues to provide updates on his Facebook page. We are in full support of Dr. Chung, Tran, and their whole family!

Dr. Bryan Salminen

Over the holiday break, NUCCA doctor Bryan Salminen shared that his family had been in a tragic car accident where he sadly lost his mother-in-law and other family members were badly injured. They have been receiving donations through their church, Our Grace Point. Here's how you can donate:

1. GO TO: OurGracePoint.com
2. Select GIVE at the top of the page
3. Under the 'FUND' dropdown menu, select 'GracePoint - Rhone, Burke, Salminen'
4. Then ENTER your PAYMENT INFORMATION.
5. Then SELECT GIVE

The family continues to share updates on the Facebook page: The Rhone / Burke / Salminen Family Update Page. Please keep them in your thoughts as Bryan's family continues to recover.

Dr. Lila Baker

Dr. Lila Baker recently shared with the NUCCA community that she has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment. She is currently seeking a doctor to take over her San Francisco practice as she transitions so she can focus on her care. A friend of Dr. Baker's has set up a GoFundMe account on her behalf – [please take a look here](#) and support how you can. If you have any interest in helping at Dr. Baker's office, please reach out to her directly.



Dr. Robert Brooks

We have continued to update NUCCA membership on any health updates from the Brooks family. As of this publication, Dr. Robert Brooks health remains the same. We are so grateful to Dr.

Brooks for his leadership, mentorship, and dedication to this organization. Our thoughts are with his wife Barbara and his whole family, and the large group of students, friends, and colleagues that learned from him over the years.